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1. A process of manufacturing a metal sheet precoated with an antimicrobial polymer coating, comprising:
- providing a metal sheet substrate having two opposed planar surfaces comprising a base metal selected from the group consisting of aluminum, iron, nickel, titanium, molybdenum, magnesium, manganese, copper, silver, lead, tin, chromium, beryllium, tungsten, cobalt and alloys thereof;
- cleaning the surface of the substrate wherein cleaning comprises removing bulk and molecular organic contaminants;
- pretreating at least one planar surface of the substrate to promote adhesion of a polymer coating;
- applying a polymer coating onto at least one planar surface of the substrate by roll coating the substrate with a polymer containing an anti-microbial powder comprising core particles associated with an antimicrobial metal component;
- wherein the content of the antibiotic powder is in the range of from about 0.2 to about 30 weight percent of the polymeric coating;
- wherein the core particle is an oxide selected from the group consisting of titanium, aluminum, zinc and copper, sulfates of calcium, strontium and barium, zinc sulfide, copper sulfide, zeolites, zirconium phosphate, mica, talc, kaolin, mullite, silica and mixtures thereof;
- wherein the antimicrobial metal component is selected from the group consisting of silver, copper, zinc, mercury, tin, lead, bismuth, cadmium, chromium, cobalt, nickel, and thallium ions and mixtures thereof; and
- treating the coated substrate to produce at least a partially hardened and adhered antimicrobial coating on the final sheet product.

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12. The process of claim 3 wherein the cleaning step comprises a cleaning method selected from the group consisting of solvent cleaning, emulsion cleaning, alkaline cleaning, acid cleaning, pickling, salt bath descaling ultrasonic cleaning, and combinations thereof.
13. The process of claim 12 wherein the cleaning step is by alkaline cleaning with an alkaline solution comprising one or more agents selected from the group consisting of caustic soda, soda ash, alkaline silicates, sodium hydroxide, sodium carbonate, sodium metasilicate, phosphates, alkaline builders, ammonium acid phosphate, ammonium hydroxide, monoethanol amine, and dimethylamine oxide.
14. The process of claim 13 wherein the alkaline solution additionally contains one or more of the agents selected from the group consisting of complexing agents, surfactants, sequestrant, builders, surface-active agents, defoaming agents, and mixtures thereof.
15. The process of claim 14 wherein the alkaline builder comprises one or more of the agents selected from the group consisting of sodium silicate, trisodium phosphate, caustic soda, disodium phosphate, sodium pyrophosphate, sodium carbonate, sodium bicarbonate, sodium tripolyphosphate, and sodium sesquicarbonate.
16. The process of claim 13 wherein the temperature of the alkaline solution is between about 25° and about 95°C.
17. The process of claim 12 wherein the metal surface having been contacted by the cleaning solution is rinsed with water.
18. The process of claim 17 wherein the rinsing is followed by drying.

19. The process of claim 13 wherein the pretreating creates a chemical conversion interlayer coating selected from the group consisting of a silane, phosphate, chromate, epoxy, oxide, adhesive and mixtures thereof.
20. The process of claim 19 wherein the interlayer is formed by contacting the metal with a composition selected from the group consisting of chromium phosphate, chromium chromate, zinc phosphate, iron phosphate, or an epoxy.
21. The process of claim 20 wherein the interlayer is formed by contacting the metal with an aqueous phosphating composition comprising phosphoric acid and a divalent metal ion wherein the composition has total phosphate content from about 0.01 to about 3 moles/liter and the metal ion is selected from the group consisting of divalent transition metal ions and alkaline earth divalent metal ions.
22. The process of claim 21 wherein the divalent metal ion is selected from the group consisting of Mn, Co, Fe, Ni, and Zn.
23. The process of claim 21 wherein the divalent metal ion is selected from the group consisting of Mg, Ca, Sr, and Ba.
24. The process of claim 21 wherein the divalent metal ion is selected from the group consisting of Fe, Ni and Zn.
25. The process of claim 24 wherein the phosphating composition additionally comprises an oxidant is selected from the group consisting of bromate, chlorate, nitrate, nitrite, organic nitro compounds, perborate, persulfate or hydrogen peroxide, m-nitrobenzene sulfonate, nitrophenol and combinations thereof.
26. The process of claim 24 wherein the phosphating composition additionally comprises one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of sulfate, fluoride, silicofluoride, boron fluoride, citrate, tartrate, hydroxy-carboxylic acids, aminocarboxylic acids, condensed phosphates, silicates, alkali metal metasilicate, alkali metal orthosilicate, and alkali metal disilicate.

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27. The process of claim 24 wherein the phosphating composition additionally comprises silicate.

28. The process of claim 21 wherein the metal substrate is predominantly aluminum and wherein the phosphating composition includes an activator present as fluoride ions in amounts up to 1.0 moles/liter.

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29. The process of claim 21 wherein the metal substrate is predominantly galvanized steel or steel and wherein the phosphating composition includes boric acid in an amount of at least 0.02.

30. The process of claim 24 wherein the interlayer is between about 0.01 to about 30 microns thick.

31. The process of claim 24 wherein the interlayer is at least partially dried by heating.

32. The process of claim 31 wherein the drying temperature is between about 25° and about 95°C.

33. The process of claim 31 wherein the drying temperature is from at least 50°C.

34. The process of claim 13 wherein the polymer is an organic polymer material selected from the group consisting of acetate rayon, acrylic resins, acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene resins and acrylic resins, aliphatic and aromatic polyamides, aliphatic and aromatic polyesters, allyl resins, butadiene resins, chlorinated polyethylene, conductive resins, copolymerised polyamides, copolymers of ethylene and vinyl acetate, cuprammonium rayons and natural and synthetic rubbers, EEA resins, epoxy resins, ether ketone resins, ethylene vinyl alcohol, fluorine resins, fluorocarbon polymers, fluoroplastics, high density polyethylenes, ionomer resins, liquid crystal polymer, low density polyethylenes, melamine formaldehyde, natural polymers such as cellulose, nylons, phenol-formaldehyde plastic, phenolic resins, polyacetal, polyacrylates, polyacrylonitrile, polyamide, polyamide-imide, polyaryletherketone, polybutadiene, polybutylene terephthalate, polybutylene,

15 polycarbonate, polycarbonates, polydicyclopentadiene, polyketones, polyester
block copolymers, polyesters, polyesterurethane, polyesterurethaneurea,
polyether and polyester block polymers, polyether ketoneketone
polyetherether ketone polyetherimide, polyethers, polyethersulfone,
polyetherurethane, polyetherurethaneurea, polyethylene isophthalate,
polyethylene terephthalate, polyethylene, polyethylenechlorinates,
20 polyglycolic acid, polyhexamethylene terephthalate, polyimide, polylactic
acid, polymethylpentene, poly-m-phenylene isophthalamide, polyolefins,
polyphenylene oxide, polyphenylene sulfide, polyphthalamide, poly-p-
phenylene terephthalamide, polypropylene, polysiloxanes, polystyrene,
polysulfides, polysulfone, polytetrafluoroethylene, polyurethane, polyvinyl
25 acetate, polyvinyl alcohols, polyvinylchloride, polyvinylidene chloride,
polyvinylidene fluoride and polyvinyl fluoride, rayon, reconstituted silk and
polysaccharides, reinforced polyethylene terephthalate resins, segmented
polyurethane elastomers, silicone resins, elastane elastomers, styrene-type
specific resins, thermoplastic polyurethane elastomers, phenol-formaldehyde
30 copolymer, triacetate rayon, unsaturated polyester resins, urea resins, urethane
resins, vinyl chloride resins, vinyl polymers, vinylidene chloride resins and
copolymers, terpolymers and mixtures thereof.

35. The process of claim 20 wherein the polymer is selected from the group
consisting of acrylic resins, polyester resins, polyethylene, polypropylene,
epoxy resins, polyurethane resins, olefin resins, polyamide resins, ethylene-
vinyl acetate copolymer, ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer, polyvinyl
5 chloride, polyvinylidene chloride, polystyrene, ABS resin, polyethylene
terephthalate, nylon, polycarbonate and copolymers, terpolymers and mixtures
thereof.

36. The process of claim 20 wherein the polymer is selected from the group
consisting of aminoalkyd resins, aminoacrylic resins, polyvinyl chloride and
polyesters.

37. The process of claim 20 wherein the polymer is a polyester.

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38. The process of claim 20 wherein the polymer is an epoxy selected from the group consisting of phenolic-modified epoxies, polyester-modified epoxies, epoxy-modified polyvinyl chloride, and cross linkable epoxies.

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The process of claim 20 wherein the polymer is an epoxy.

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The process of claim 35 wherein the core particle is a natural zeolite selected from the group consisting of analcime, chabazite, clinoptilolite, erionite, faujasite, mordenite, and phillipsite.

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The process of claim 35 wherein the core particle is a synthetic zeolite selected from the group consisting of A-type zeolite, X-type zeolite, Y-type zeolite, and mordenite.

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The process of claim 41 wherein the core particle is a synthetic zeolite whose ion-exchangeable ions are partially or completely ion-exchanged with antibiotic metal ions.

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The process of claim 42 wherein the ion-exchangeable ions are selected from the group consisting of sodium ions, potassium ions, calcium ions, magnesium ions and iron ions and wherein the antibacterial metals ions are selected from the group consisting of silver, copper, zinc, mercury, tin, lead, bismuth, cadmium, chromium, cobalt, nickel, and thallium ions or mixtures thereof, and wherein the zeolite particles retain the antibacterial metal ions at ionic exchange sites of the zeolite in an amount less than the ion exchange saturation capacity of the zeolite.

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The process of claim 43 wherein the zeolite is ion-exchanged with metal ions in an amount less than about 90% of the ion-exchangeable saturation capacity of the zeolite particles.

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The process of claim 44 wherein the antibacterial metals ions are selected from the group consisting of silver, copper or zinc ions or mixtures thereof.

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The process of claim 44 wherein the antibacterial metal ions are silver.

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66. The process of claim 61 wherein the metal sheet is made of a base metal material selected from the group consisting of aluminum, aluminum alloys, magnesium, and magnesium alloys.
67. The process of claim 61 wherein the metal sheet is stainless steel and wherein the coating has a thickness of from about 1 to about 30 microns.
68. The process of claim 61 wherein the coating after forming-processed is heated at a temperature of 100° to 300°C.
69. A metal sheet precoated with an antimicrobial polymer coating manufactured by the method of claim 1, 10, 20, 35 or 42.
70. A method of increasing stain resistance of a metal sheet by the method of claim 1, 10, 20, 35 or 42.
71. A method of increasing fingerprint resistance of a metal sheet by the method of claim 1, 10, 20, 35 or 42.